

**GREENBELT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF
February 20, 2012**

The Greenbelt Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for the Regular Meeting on February 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. Notice and Agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 W Gray Building A, the Norman Municipal Building and at www.normanok.gov twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. *Update: Due to the anticipated meeting attendance, the meeting was moved to the City Council Chambers.*

ITEM NO. 1 BEING: CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Jane Ingels called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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ITEM NO. 2 BEING: ROLL CALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Bruce
Jack Eure
Jane Ingels
Mark Krittenbrink
Richard McKown
Mary Peters
Sarah Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Geoff Canty
(Arrived after roll call and was seated in the audience)
Jim McCampbell

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Connors, Director of Planning & Community
Development
Ken Danner, Subdivision Development Manager, Public
Works
Jane Hudson, Planner II
Jolana McCart, Admin Tech IV

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
Councilmember Linda Lockett
Councilmember Roger Gallagher

Those also attending who signed in were:

- Fred Pope
- Edda Miner
- Jeanette Coker
- Jim Simpson
- Fred Walden
- Ginger Hall
- Howard Haines
- Lyntha Wesner

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ITEM NO. 3 BEING: Approval of the Minutes from the January 23, 2012 Regular Meeting.

Motion by J Eure for approval; **Second** by M Peters. All approve.

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ITEM NO. 4 BEING: Review of Greenbelt Enhancement Statement Applications.

a. CONSENT DOCKET

i. GBC 12-03

- Applicant: Kevin Hoos & Shelba Bethel, Living Trust
- Location: Located at the southeast corner of 72nd Avenue SE and Cedar Lane Road
- Request: Norman Rural Certificate of Survey Plat

This proposal is being made to allow for the necessary permits for the construction of a barn and a future single-family home. There is no connectivity for a trail at this time.

Motion by M Krittenbrink for approval of the Consent Docket; **Second** by M Peters. All approve.

b. NON-CONSENT DOCKET

ii. There were no items.

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ITEM NO. 5 BEING: Public Meeting.

S Connors gave the Greenways Master Plan presentation. (See attached.)

- Questions from the Commission:

M Krittenbrink: Who decides on the different type of materials and where they are used?

S Connors: The GBC would have a say along with Parks and Recreation and Public Works. It would depend on the kind and volume of use of each trail. Daily use trails might be concrete. A lesser used trail might be asphalt and in very natural areas, such as a nature trail, it might be dirt or gravel.

M Krittenbrink: This is a plan, but does not have a funding source, and maintenance would be included in this?

S Connors: Yes. When the City would begin to look at any trail system, it would be a long process to determine the alignment, the type of trail and materials used, and this information would be brought forward for approval as a package.

- Questions from the public were:

Fred Pope – 1501 Navajo Road - How many miles of trails are proposed?

S Connors: There are no specific trails that are being proposed. I will look through the plan and see but I do not think total mileage was ever identified.

Jim Simpson – 2530 Wyandotte Way – stated: "I believe that all that I am hearing here tonight is rooted out of United Nations Agenda 21. And I have something that I would like to read." A question was not asked of staff.

Edda Miner – 2121 Seminole Road – Is there a possibility that land will be taken from homeowners?

Chair Ingels: That is not in the Greenbelt Master Plan.

Ms. Miner: Are you sure of it?

Chair Ingels: Yes

S Connors: I would say that in the future if the City was looking at a trail corridor and needed property for the trail to be expanded then there would need to be opportunities for the City and the property owners to discuss how that might occur. The City is not going to go out and take land. There are several ways of acquiring property without taking land from owners.

Ms. Miner: How do you plan on keeping things green?

S Connors: That is a detail that hasn't been worked out at all.

Ms Miner: This is very important. Water will be needed for the trail. Lake Thunderbird is littered with trees and is very shallow. It needs to be cleaned up. Maybe now with this project it is the time to look at Lake Thunderbird.

Chair Ingels: I agree that the problem with water is very great and we will be very considerate of that.

Ms. Miner: No fountain or sprinklers are needed. Users can bring their own water. Vandalism would be an issue if sprinklers and fountains were used.

June McLaughlin – 2701 E Rock Creek Road – I think this is nuts. What about the bugs? And who is going to be responsible for the upkeep?

Chair Ingels: It would not be the property owner. Those details will need to be worked out with each trail.

Ms. McLaughlin: Will I have to take my fences down? Then what do I do with my horses?

Chair Ingels: Actually no trail would go through property without having had a discussion with the property owner. A line on the map is not necessarily a specific trail destination but is a possibility. At some point a trail may develop along that line but the property owner would help decide that.

Ms McLaughlin: Most of these things seem to be on the east side. So what about the bugs and snakes? You people who thought of these things obviously don't understand. So you spray for bugs; the run off goes into Lake Thunderbird. This isn't practical to say the least. What if I decide to develop my property? I am in the country residential zone. Is it set in stone that I have to develop these trails in order to sub-divide?

S Connors: No. We do not have any ordinance to that effect in place. And there is no plan for one in the future. The plan is the framework and basis for developing trails.

Ms. McLaughlin: I believe that I read that this is going to cost \$25,000 a mile. Is that correct? How many miles of this are we going to have?

Chair Ingels: That figure may have come from the original Master Plan and is not still accurate. It may cost more. But this would happen over a period of years and the community would decide which trails they felt they wanted developed first. A feasibility study would then need to be done for example to see what kind of trail would be needed and the cost of that trail. Input would be needed from the property owners also. You would not be required to give up your land just because there is a line across it.

Ms. McLaughlin: There is an orange line (on the map) along a road. Why would you put a trail along a road? Is that for bicycles? What is it for?

S Connors: Some of these lines are looking for a way to connect different trail systems. Sidewalks are going to need to be used at times.

Ms. McLaughlin: How are you planning on getting across 12th street?

S Connors: Traffic signals or pedestrian walkways.

Ms. McLaughlin: Are there going to be more bicycles in the country that cause head on collisions?

S Connors: A trail system does not necessarily create more bicycle traffic but they are one of the main users of trails. But these trails would be off road.

Ms. McLaughlin: But did I hear that there will be no condemnation used?

S Connors: Nothing in this plan talks about condemnation.

Ms. McLaughlin: Will it be considered later?

S Connors: That would not be for this body to consider. City Council has the opportunity to look at condemnation but I doubt if it would ever be used for trails.

Ms. McLaughlin: I just want you to consider what else lives out in the country.

Fred Pope – 1501 Navajo Road - What is the connection between the application for a Rural Certificate of Survey Plat and the Greenbelt?

S Connors: You mean the application that was on the consent docket? There is a list of different types of applications that come into the City that have to come to this body by City ordinance for review for trails and open space.

F Pope – That would strongly imply an intent to force a developer to provide a trail through a new development.

S Connor – The application presented tonight was put on the consent docket because there was no trail opportunity. A right-of-way for a sidewalk is needed but that would be required whether a trail was planned or not.

B Bruce explained the application process further.

George Oxsen – 321 Orr Drive - Quoted from page 33 of the Plan "**Acquisition through purchase by other entities** – Local, state and national land trust can raise funds to acquire open space, and then manage the lands or pass them on to the city." Also on page 33 it says "**Preservation by private homeowner associations** – The acquisition of greenways for area residents may be considered as an alternative. Deed restrictions that permanently designate the acquisition as open space should be established. Where city funds are involved, public access to the land via trails should be provided." So in other words you want people who are buying land to permanently deed the land to you guys, which in my mind reduces any reason to buy land. In the next paragraph "**Acquisition by private sources for private use** – private groups may also acquire open space with their own funding. Deed restrictions that permanently designate the acquisition as an open space should be established. Where acquisition is funded in this manner, the land may be maintained by the private source and access restrictions may be imposed. However, the open space should remain visible from publicly accessed roads and in some cases where key linkages must go through the property, trails should be considered." I just don't get off where you guys have the right to do that. As a citizen of the United States that really concerns me.

- There were no further questions from the public.

Chair Ingels thanked the attendees for taking the time to share their thoughts and concerns.

The Commission had no further comments.

Chair Ingels stated that a vote on the Greenbelt Master Plan would be taken at the March meeting.

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ITEM NO. 6 BEING: Miscellaneous Discussion.

Chair Ingels asked S Connors to give a report on the amount available for acquisition. She stated that there was approximately \$149,000 in the Greenbelt Acquisition Fund. In the last year an acquisition of flood plain property at Carter/Main was made for preservation of open space.

Jack Eure will give a presentation on best practices of greenways and greenbelts at the March meeting.

ITEM NO. 7 BEING: Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Passed and approved this 19th day of March 2012.

Jane Ingels
Jane Ingels, Chairperson

GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN

FEBRUARY 20, 2012

PLAN PREPARATION

- 1ST draft of plan prepared with SWMP by consultant
- Sub-committee review
- Commission review
- Reformatting

FINAL DRAFT

- Majority of text and maps from the Haiff Associates, Inc. document
- Main part of the Plan is policies and framework for trail design and construction
- Creating appendices which are guidelines for further implementation of the Plan

PLAN SECTIONS

- Section 1 – Norman
- Section 2 – Introduction
- Section 3 – Guidelines & Design Standards
- Section 4 – Implementation Strategies
- Appendices A, B, C

SECTION 1 NORMAN

- Key points about Norman
 - Location
 - Population
 - Growth

SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

- Why Plan for Greenways
- Purpose of the Master Plan
- Methodology
- Goals for Identifying Citywide Opportunities
- Appendices
- Destinations and Attractions
- Guiding Principles

**SECTION 3
GUIDELINES AND DESIGN STANDARDS**

- Greenway Users
- Possible Trail Types for Norman
- Trail Design Standards
- Pedestrian Corridors along Roadways
- Trailheads
- Recommended Amenities
- Trail Material Recommendations
- Potential Corridors

**SECTION 4
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- Who will implement the Plan
- Implementation Process
- Corridor Acquisition or Preservation
- Incentives to Preserve Open Space
- Funding Sources
- Maintenance of Greenway Corridors/Trails

APPENDICES

- Appendix A
- Appendix B
- Appendix C

Greenbelt Commission Meeting

Sign In Sheet

2/20/2012

- 1 Fred Pope 1501 Navajo Rd 73026
- 2 Eda Miner 2121 Seminole Rd Norman ⁷³⁰²⁶
- 3 Jeanette Coker 620 E. Main Norman ⁷⁰¹⁻⁵⁵⁶⁰
- 4 Jim Simpson 2530 W. PONDOTE WAY Norman
- 5 Wife of Jim Simpson (Linda Cockett)
- 6 Fred WALDEN P.O. Box 644 73070
- 7 Hunguathol 2700 24th AVE. N.E. Norman
- 8 Howard Haines 515 May St., Norman.
- 9 Lyntha Hester 616 Tulsa 73071
- 10 Candy Rossett of
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